

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 46

Introduced by Assembly Members Calderon and Nazarian
(Principal coauthor: Senator Allen)

March 17, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 46—Relative to the Arts Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 46, as introduced, Calderon. Arts Council: funding.

This measure would declare the importance of the arts to the state and the essential role of the Arts Council in promoting the arts throughout the state, and urge a unified effort between the Legislature and the Governor to provide a substantial increase in the General Fund appropriation to the California Arts Council in the 2015–16 Budget Act.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Since the 1970s, the Arts Council, also known as
2 the California Arts Council, has served the state by strategically
3 promoting increased access to the arts for all Californians,
4 particularly for residents living in communities that lack sufficient
5 and convenient opportunities to experience the benefits of the arts
6 in their lives; and
7 WHEREAS, In the past, the state appropriated funds that could
8 meaningfully support the programs of the Arts Council. However,
9 beginning in 2003, the annual funding of the Arts Council from
10 the General Fund drastically dropped, and since that time, the
11 funding has remained essentially flat at a \$1,000,000 annual

1 appropriation, making California one of the lowest ranked states
2 to invest in the arts on per capita basis. The programs of the Arts
3 Council that once reached rural towns, underserved urban
4 neighborhoods, prisons, and schools have either been depleted or
5 discontinued entirely; and

6 WHEREAS, The arts invigorate the state and national
7 economies. The creative sector has become one of the state's most
8 important drivers of economic growth. The 2013 OTIS Report on
9 the Creative Economy, analyzing the economic impact of the
10 creative economy in the state, concluded that 9.7 percent of jobs
11 in the state are connected, directly or indirectly, to the creative
12 industries. A recent report by the U.S. Bureau of Economic
13 Analysis concluded that the arts and culture sector represent 3.2
14 percent of the nation's gross domestic product in 2011; and

15 WHEREAS, The arts bolster small and large businesses and the
16 nonprofit sector. Local merchants directly benefit when people
17 attend art events in their community because attendees make
18 purchases related to the event, including, among other things, meals
19 and parking. Nationally, in 2011, exports outside the United States
20 of art-related goods, including, but not limited to, movies,
21 paintings, and jewelry, substantially increased and resulted in a
22 trade surplus within the arts industry. The national nonprofit arts
23 industry annually generates billions in economic activity and
24 provides millions of jobs; and

25 WHEREAS, The arts increase tourism and travel. Arts travelers
26 are ideal tourists, staying longer and spending more to seek out
27 authentic cultural experiences than other types of travelers. Reports
28 show that the percentage of international travelers visiting museums
29 and attending concerts and theater performances has steadily grown
30 since 2003; and

31 WHEREAS, The arts spark creativity and innovation in the
32 workforce. Creativity is recognized as one of the top five applied
33 employee skills sought by business leaders. Nobel laureates in the
34 sciences are 17 times more likely to be actively engaged in the arts
35 than other scientists; and

36 WHEREAS, The arts enhance our society. A recent study
37 demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads
38 to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child
39 welfare, and lower poverty rates. A vibrant arts community ensures

1 that young people are not left to experience their society through
2 a pop culture and tabloid marketplace; and

3 WHEREAS, The arts improve healthcare. Nearly one-half of
4 the nation’s healthcare institutions provide arts programming for
5 patients, families, and staff on the basis that art programs promote
6 healing in patients, resulting in shorter hospital stays, better pain
7 management, and less medication; and

8 WHEREAS, The arts are fundamental to our human experience.
9 The arts inspire us to see our human potential by fostering
10 creativity, goodness, and beauty. The arts help us express our
11 values, build bridges between cultures, and bring people together,
12 regardless of perceived differences in ethnicity, religion, or age.
13 As a well-known idiom reminds us, “[w]hen times are tough, art
14 is salve for the ache;” and

15 WHEREAS, The arts improve academic performance. Students
16 with an education rich in the arts have higher grades and
17 standardized test scores and lower rates of dropping out of school.
18 Students with four years of arts or music in high school average
19 100 more points on their SAT scores than students with just
20 one-half of a year of arts or music. While art education is mandated
21 by state law, California is failing to provide a sufficient arts
22 education. For the past 30 years arts education in schools has been
23 disappearing at an alarming rate. Between 1999 and 2004, student
24 enrollment in music education declined by almost half. The state’s
25 recent fiscal crisis has resulted in still more dramatic cuts to visual
26 and performing arts education programs for students throughout
27 the state; and

28 WHEREAS, The Governor’s currently proposed funding for
29 the Arts Council in the 2015–16 Budget Act is a total of
30 \$5,000,000, a combination of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund,
31 \$1,000,000 matching federal funds, and the remainder consisting
32 of revenues from a specialty license plate supporting the arts; and

33 WHEREAS, By increasing the state’s investment in the arts
34 through funding the programs of the Arts Council in the 2015–16
35 Budget Act, the Legislature and the Governor would strengthen
36 the ability of the Arts Council to invigorate the state and national
37 economies, including businesses of all sizes and the nonprofit
38 sector, foster creativity in the lives of people in their workplace
39 and communities, secure a more solid cultural and educational

1 experience for our children, and cultivate healthy human lives,
2 both physically and emotionally; therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares the importance
5 of the arts to the state and the essential role of the Arts Council
6 promoting the arts throughout the state; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges a unified effort between
8 the Legislature and the Governor to provide a substantial increase
9 in the General Fund appropriation to the California Arts Council
10 in the 2015–16 Budget Act; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
12 sufficient copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate
13 distribution.